Earthquake Risk Evaluation Cell

659. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Eastern Council sponsored Earthquake Risk Evaluation Cell set up in the late seventies is now defunct; and

(b) whether the Central Government will take suitable measures to activate this all considering that North Eastern region is located in area of high seismic sensitivity and to set up an Autonomous Centre for Earthquake Studies in the region which will among other things initiate suitable disaster preparedness programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The work and activities of the Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) is being looked after by Science and Technology Cell of NEC Secretariat since 1990. The S and T Cell is active. Suggestion for setting up an Autonomous Centre for Earthquake Studies in the North Eastern region would be referred to the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India for their consideration.

Crime in Delhi

660. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of robbery, dacoity, murders and kidnappings reported in Delhi during the last four months, month- wise and colony-wise, with the details of losses of life and properties; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to stop such incidents by providing safety to the residents of Delhi/New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statutory Development Block for Konkan

†661. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a proposal regarding constitution of an independent Statutory Development block for Konkan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is its time-limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A proposal for amending article 371(2) of the Constitution in order to establish a separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan has been received from the Government of Maharashtra. The Planning Commission has undertaken an evaluation study in respect of the working of the three existing Development Boards in Maharashtra. A decision regarding creation of a separate Development Board for Konkan region of Maharashtra will be taken after the report of the study is available.

Crime in Metros

662. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of crimes committed in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai during the last three years, type of crime and year-wise;

(b) the number of atrocities committed against women like rape, molestation in these cities respectively during the same period, year- wise;

(c) the atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) the observation of Government on the patterns thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) *[See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 20]* Available information is given in the Annexure.

(d) "Public Order' and "Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh schedule to the Constitution of India. As such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focussed attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to ensure prevention of atrocities against women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable sections of the society. The Government of India has also been extending financial assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure.